

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGUI 01953 090736Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-13 /088 W

-----025533 090744Z /21

R 081115Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9226

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1953

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT, NI

SUBJ: CAE ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA

REF: STATE 208244

SUMMARY: CAE-NIGERIA RELATIONS ARE NOT GOOD. PROBLEMS STEM FROM LARGE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY IN CAE, CAE VIEW THAT NIGERIA SHOULD HELP ITS POORER NEIGHBORS, AND DIFFERING CAE/NIGERIA POSITIONS ON AFRICAN ISSUES. WE DOUBT THAT CAE PARTICULARLY FAVORS PRESENT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT OR NIGERIAN LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. EVIDENCE OF POOR CAE-NIGERIAN RELATIONS INCLUDES SOME CAE HARRASSMENT OF NIGERIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS, FAILURE OF CAE TO PURSUE PROPOSED TRADE AGREEMENT, AND IMPERIAL DECREE OF SEPT 2 AIMED AT PROHIBITING IMPORT OF VEHICLES PURCHASED IN NIGERIA VIA BLUCK-MARKET CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS THERE.

2. THE LARGE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY IN THE CAE IS ONE SOURCE OF FRICTION. NIGERIAN EMBASSY ESTIMATES PLACE IT AT 200,000, DOWN FROM PERHAPS 500,000 A FEW YEARS AGO AS A RESULT OF CAE LAWS RESERVING FOR CAE CITIZENS OWNERSHIP OF BARS, TAXIS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGUI 01953 090736Z

SERVICE STATIONS, ETC. NIGERIANS REMAINING ARE LARGELY SMALL BUSINESSMEN, ARE RESENTED AND ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE GOCAE.

3. THE GOCAE ALSO RESENTS NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT UNWILLINGNESS TO SHARE ITS WEALTH. THE CAE HAS REPORTEDLY TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO BUY POL ON DSFERRED PAYMENT TERMS. THE EMPEROR PROBABLY EXPECTS SOME TYPE OF CORONATION GIFT FROM THE NIGERIAN

GOVERNMENT OR FROM THE NIGERIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

4. ALTHOUGH THE CAE SIDED WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE THE TRANSKEI, ITS POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES HAS USUALLY BEEN WELL OUT OF THE AFRICAN MAINSTREAM IN THE DIRECTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC AID TO THE CAE. THE CAE ALSO SIDED FIRMLY WITH ZAIRE ON ANGOLA.

5. AS A RESULT OF ALL OF THIS, NIGERIAN DIPLOMATS BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE IN THE CAE. THEY ARE PROBABLY RIGHT. ALTHOUGH BOKASSA HAS GOOD RAPPORT WITH AT LEAST ONE ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN LEADER, THE FACT IS THAT THE COUNTRIES WITH CONTINUING INFLUENCE HERE ARE FRANCE AND THE CONSERVATIVE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS GABON, IVORY COAST AND ZAIRE. THOSE ARE THE COUNTRIES WHICH BOKASSA SUPPORTS AND TO WHICH HE LOOKS FOR LEADERSHIP.

SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGUI01953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770326-1081
Format: TEL
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770988/aaaacwaq.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 717daa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 208244
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1353836
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAE ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CT, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/717daa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009